



Chief of Police James Ritz

What's Inside

Having a Safe Holiday

City of Berwyn Releases
New Smartphone App

page 2

Adopt a Hydrant from the
Berwyn Fire DepartmentCity of Berwyn
Grass Cutting, Leaf and
Snow Removal

page 3

Robbery Prevention
and Reaction

page 4 & 5

Neighborhood
Flooding Updates -
By The Numbers

page 5

Upcoming Events

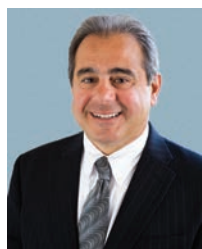
page 6

Helpful Telephone
Numbers

page 7

Neighborhood Watch
Sign

page 8



Dear Resident,

On behalf of the entire City of Berwyn, I would like to wish you and your family a most joyous holiday season. During these cold winter months, I encourage all of you to check on your neighbors, especially the elderly, to ensure that they are staying safe and warm. Please make note of the warming centers listed below in the event that you or someone you know is without adequate heat in their home.

On the back page of this issue, you will find a brand new Neighborhood Watch sign and a listing of important phone numbers; please cut it out and place it in your front window. These signs send a message to potential criminals that you and your neighbors remain vigilant for suspicious activity, and that criminal behavior will not be tolerated in the City of Berwyn.

Finally, in keeping with holiday tradition, I'd like to extend a personal invitation for you to join us on December 12, 2014 for my annual Christmas Party at the Berwyn VFW located at 15th Street and Harlem Avenue from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. New, unwrapped toys will be collected and donated to local families in need. We look forward to sharing the holiday spirit with all our residents, and hope to see you there!

Respectfully,

Mayor Robert J. Lovero

On Wednesday, October 15th, the City of Berwyn, with the assistance of Morton High School District 201, continued its "Prevention through Education" series of citywide meetings by focusing on the prevention of bullying. The presenter, Tina Meier is a nationally-acclaimed cybersafety speaker who has participated in the Presidential Conference on Bullying Prevention and is the Executive Director of the Megan Meier Foundation, which she established in memory of her 13-year-old daughter who took her own life due to the actions of cyberbullies that lived down the street.

In addition to the citywide meeting, the Berwyn Police Department also partnered with school districts 98 and 100 to bring Megan's story to all three of Berwyn's middle schools. More information and resources can be found at www.meganmeierfoundation.org

**BERWYN POLICE DEPARTMENT**
6401 W. 31st Street**24 Hours****BERWYN PUBLIC LIBRARY****Mon-Thu 9AM-9PM**
Fri-Sat 9AM-5PM
Sun 1PM-5PM**BERWYN RECREATION DEPARTMENT** Mon-Fri 8AM-10PM
6501 W. 31st Street**FREEDOM PARK ADMIN OFFICE**
3701 S. Scoville Ave
708-788-1701**Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM**



Having a Safe Holiday

During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, remember to keep safety on your wish list. The following tips will help to ensure a happy and safe holiday for your family.

At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house or apartment, even for a few minutes.
- Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Store gifts before you go away on a holiday trip.
- If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so your home appears to be occupied.
- If you take a holiday trip away from your home, have some interior lights activated by an automatic timer. Have a neighbor or family member watch your house, shovel new snow, pick up the mail and newspaper and park his or her motor vehicle in your driveway from time to time.
- Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. They may attempt to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for identification, how donated funds are used, if contributions are tax deductible, etc. If you aren't satisfied with the answers, don't give. Be aware that solicitors are required to have a permit in order to conduct business in the City of Berwyn. If you are suspicious or concerned, do not hesitate to contact the Berwyn Police Department.
- Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with an identification number, record new serial numbers and take photos of the items to include with your home inventory.
- Test your smoke detectors.
- Use only fire resistant ornaments on a holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good working order. Don't leave the lights on overnight or when you are away from home.
- If you have house guests, advise them of your security precautions and make sure they follow them.
- Avoid leaving boxes from purchases (especially TV's, VCR's, computer, etc.) in the alley for trash pickup. Consider waiting until the night before or morning of garbage collection to take out such items.

Shopping

- Shop before dark if possible. Possibly coordinate shopping trips with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot or area, no matter how convenient it is.
- Lock your packages and gifts in your vehicle's trunk. Keep your vehicle's doors locked and windows closed.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible.
- To discourage purse-snatchers, don't overburden yourself with packages. Have your purchases delivered whenever practical.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket pocket, not a back trouser pocket.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated. They should never go into a parking lot alone.

Holiday Party Safety

- Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.
- Serve something to eat before serving alcoholic beverages. High protein foods stay in the stomach longer and slow absorption of alcohol into the system.
- Have alternative transportation for intoxicated persons. Don't let guests drink and drive.



City of Berwyn Releases New Smartphone App

The City of Berwyn's new smartphone application is a free app that serves as a resource for both residents and community stakeholders. Among many things, this app features an events calendar and news feed, business directory, and a service request form. This interactive tool is a great way to keep up-to-date with happenings in the community and stay involved.

Search for "City of Berwyn" in the App Store or Google Play Store to download this app and explore the many reasons Berwyn is the perfect spot to visit and live.





Adopt a Hydrant from the Berwyn Fire Department

The City of Berwyn has over 1,000 fire hydrants within its distribution system in need of adoption. Winter storms often bury fire hydrants, making it difficult to locate quickly. If a fire hydrant is buried under snow, it takes firefighters extra time to locate the fire hydrant and from 4-6 minutes to uncover the hydrant to gain access. Fire doubles in size every 20 seconds. Our Adopt-A-Hydrant program helps to keep the hydrant free of snow and the community safer!

When maintaining a fire hydrant, a three foot area should be kept free of weeds and shrubbery. In the winter months, the entire three foot area should be cleared of snow and a pathway from the roadway or sidewalk should be shoveled leading up to the fire hydrant. When shoveling snow, please be aware of vehicle traffic. Do not stand in the street and be careful not to slip and fall out into the roadway. Also, please do not pile the snow in the roadway.

Please consider clearing the snow from a fire hydrant for your neighbors or those who may have medical conditions, disabilities, or those elderly whom may be unable to do so for themselves. This act of kindness will benefit the entire neighborhood. If you notice that a fire hydrant has been

damaged, missing caps, leaking water, or is blocked, please notify us at 708-484-1644.

If interested in adopting a fire hydrant please contact Battalion Chief Mario Manfredini at Mmanfredini@ci.berwyn.il.us.

SUPPORT YOUR FIREFIGHTERS: YOU CAN COUNT ON THEM CAN THEY COUNT ON YOU?

City of Berwyn Grass Cutting, Leaf and Snow Removal

Through Berwyn's Senior Outreach Program, we can assist you with grass cutting, leaf and snow removal. These programs have been created to help our elderly or disabled citizens for whom some tasks have become too challenging. These programs are limited to single family homes on a standard of 30' x 125'.

The grass cutting/leaf removal program begins approximately May 1st and concludes approximately November 15th. Both front and back lawns are cut every two (2) weeks when necessary. During the autumn, grass cutting will continue to remove leaves from the lawns. There is a \$5 charge per service call and you will receive an Invoice for these services thru the mail.

Snow removal begins November 1st and concludes April 1st when the snow fall is 2" or more in Berwyn. Snow is removed from the front walk and steps and will begin after the end of the snowfall. FREE

You qualify, if you are a homeowner 65 years of age or disabled, with no able-bodied person under age 65 in residences and meet the annual income guidelines. This program is limited to single family homes only. Any property in excess of the standard lot of 30' x 125' will have to pay the proportional difference in cost.

Homeowners must complete an application and be approved before becoming a part of the program. Additionally, the grass cutting/leaf removal and snow removal service is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For further information or an application, contact the Senior Service Department - Liz at 484-2510.





Robbery Prevention and Reaction

Robberies are a quick way for the criminal to make money. The definition of robbery is when someone steals or takes anything of value from you, against your will, by using force, intimidation or violence. It is under the same conditions with the intent to deprive you of your property permanently. Robberies are commonly classified by the means employed, such as armed robbery, or the place of offence, such as bank robbery.

A burglary is not a robbery. A burglary is when someone uses force to enter a home or business, with the intent of stealing your property or committing some other felony.

Your home or business may be burglarized, but when you are personally victimized you have also suffered a robbery.

Some people take foolish risks and some of them lose. If a robber threatens you with a gun, your chances of safely disarming him or her is small. To be prepared, your best protection lies in thinking ahead, "What would I do if this happened to me?" If you don't have a plan you may panic or do something to cause the robber to panic and hurt you.



How Can I Protect Myself?

- Be aware of your surroundings. Walk with a purpose, head up, and looking around. Stay in lighted areas at night. The robber doesn't want to be seen.
- Avoid walking with your cell phone on display. Phones are a common item of interest for robbers.
- Stay with the crowd — there is safety in numbers.
- Women should carry their wallet in their pocket, not their purse.
- If you carry a purse, carry it close to your body, like a football player carries a football. Do not place the strap across your body or over your shoulder. When the robber grabs your purse, you may be pulled along with the robber until the strap breaks and you are injured.
- Don't leave a purse on a counter or in a shopping cart unattended.
- Men should consider carrying two wallets, one of them filled with cut up paper. Most robbers are not going to go through the wallet until they have fled to safety.
- Be cautious when wearing "flashy" jewelry.
- Be conscious of people just "hanging around" anywhere, especially near pay phones, public rest rooms, building entrances and garages.
- Notify the police of strangers who are hanging around your home, apartment or place of business for no apparent reason.
- Take the profit out of robbery by not carrying large sums of money, or credit cards on your person whenever possible.
- Vary your routine — don't do the same thing at exactly the same time every day.
- Be aware of people around you when you are using your automatic teller machine (ATM) card. When possible, use an ATM that is located inside a business such as a grocery store.
- Have your pay, social security, or retirement checks directly deposited into your bank account.
- When you go to the bank, don't flash your cash.
- Lock your car doors when your vehicle is unattended even if you will only be out of it for a "minute." This action may prevent a robber from hiding in your back seat awaiting your return.
- While driving, keep your vehicle doors locked.
- If you are walking and a vehicle is following you, reverse directions or cross the street.
- If someone acts suspiciously, looks at you closely or follows you, head for bright lights and people and call the police.
- Carry a whistle or other noise making device. Use it to call attention to yourself if threatened.

What Should I Do If I am a Robbery Victim?

- **DO NOT PANIC** — get a grip on yourself and stay calm. Take some deep breaths.
- **DO NOT RESIST** — the robber wants your valuables, not you. "Things" can always be replaced ... you cannot.
- **OBEY THE ROBBER'S INSTRUCTIONS** — listen closely to what the robber says and do not argue. Try to remember the exact words spoken by the robber as it may help with the police investigation.





- **BE ALERT** — notice what is happening.
- **LOOK FOR DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS** — look for things that cannot be changed such as scars, marks, tattoos, limps, accents, etc.
- **WEAPONS** — take careful note of any weapons. You will have to describe it later to the police. If the robber indicates that there is a weapon in his pocket, assume it is a gun. If the robber has a gun, assume it is loaded.
- **DESCRIPTION OF ROBBER** — compare the robber to your own height and weight to estimate the size of your attacker.
- **COOPERATE WITH THE POLICE** — if you are robbed, or see someone else being robbed, report it to the police immediately.

What Should I Do After the Robbery?

Notify the police immediately and be prepared to tell them:

1. the address, with an exact location in the building;
2. as complete a description as possible of the robber(s);
3. whether or not a weapon was implied or used. If you saw the weapon, a good description including the type, for example, if it was a handgun what style (revolver or semi-automatic), or other weapons such as knives, crowbars, etc.;
4. a description of any vehicle used and the number of people in the vehicle;
5. the direction of travel; and
6. any words spoken by the robber(s)
 - While waiting for the police to arrive, lock the doors and do not touch anything. Keep everyone away from the hold-up area and guard anything that may have been touched by the robber(s).
 - Save anything left behind by the robber(s) such as a note, weapon, bag, clothing and do not handle any of these items.
 - While waiting for the police, do not discuss the crime with other witnesses. All those involved should make individual notes of the information they have while it is fresh in their minds.
 - To a thief, there's nothing like a motor vehicle. It's self-propelled and fully equipped for a fast get-away. The vehicle and its components are items in steady demand.
 - Stolen vehicles are frequently used to aid in the commission of more serious crimes, especially robbery, abduction, assault, and burglary. The definition of theft is to take the property of another wrongfully, with the intent to permanently deprive the owner.

Neighborhood Flooding Updates – By the Numbers

The City has undertaken numerous initiatives to help protect private property and reduce neighborhood flooding. These are the numbers you should know:

- **\$1,000,000** – The amount allocated by Berwyn City Council to create a cost-share program for residents to install overhead sewers or check valve systems in their homes
- **250+** – The number of residents that attended the town hall meeting regarding area flooding on October 15th at Heritage Middle School. This event was jointly hosted by the City of Berwyn and the All Berwyn Committee.



- **\$0** – The cost that Berwyn residents will pay for rain barrels when they participate in the MWRD Rain Barrel Program.
- **100** – The miles of sewer that is maintained by the Berwyn Public Works Department.
- **140** – The number of emergency repairs made to the City's sewer system this year.
- **\$2,237,765** – The amount of grant funding that Governor Quinn announced Berwyn will be receiving for green stormwater infrastructure projects during his October 18th press conference at Berwyn City Hall.
- **8** – The number of green alleys that the City will install throughout Berwyn. Green alleys allow for storm water to naturally drain into the ground rather than overload the sewer system.

More information on these programs can be found by visiting the City of Berwyn website and clicking on "Find Flood Information" or by emailing: stormwater@ci.berwyn.il.us





Upcoming Events

Saturdays 12/6/14 & 12/13/2014

2:45 PM to 5:15 PM (train departs at 2:55)

Take a train ride based on the popular book "Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg. BPD's "Polar Express" will leave the Berwyn Train Station and go to the North Pole (Aurora Train Station). This delightful story will be read on our journey and when we arrive Santa Claus will join us for our ride home. Contact the Berwyn Park District for more information and registration.



Polar Express Storytime Train



SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 13, 2014 • 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

NBPD Community Center – 1619 S. Wesley

Free activities, photos with Santa, cookie decorating, arts & crafts, letters to Santa and stocking stuffing.

Saturday, December 13, 2014 • 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Opening Ceremony begins at 5:30 pm at Karasek Park, 6846 Windsor Avenue.

Join us in the Depot District on Windsor & Stanley Avenues, between Harlem & East Avenues.

This year's activities include:

- ❄ Free Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides
- ❄ Free Heated Trolley Rides
- ❄ Free Photos with Santa at Bounce Sports Multiplex
- ❄ Live Reindeer and Petting Zoo at Municipal Parking Facility at 3310 S Grove
- ❄ Complimentary holiday refreshments at Participating Businesses



55 & Over Events

from the

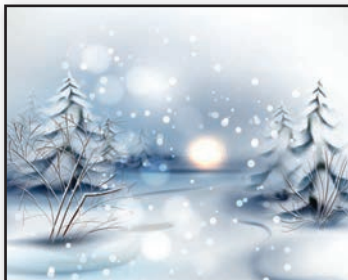
**Berwyn Recreation
Department
6501 W. 31st St.**

**Reservations required.
Please call
708-788-2010 to RSVP.**



CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Wednesday, December 10, 2014
11:30 AM to 2:00 PM**



WINTER WONDERLAND LUNCHEON

**Wednesday, January 21, 2015
11:30 AM to 2:00 PM**



VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

**Friday, February 13, 2015
11:30 AM to 2:00 PM**



HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

POLICE **911**

FIRE **911**

AMBULANCE **911**

NON-EMERGENCY

708 795-5600

708 484-1644

708 484-1644

CITY HALL

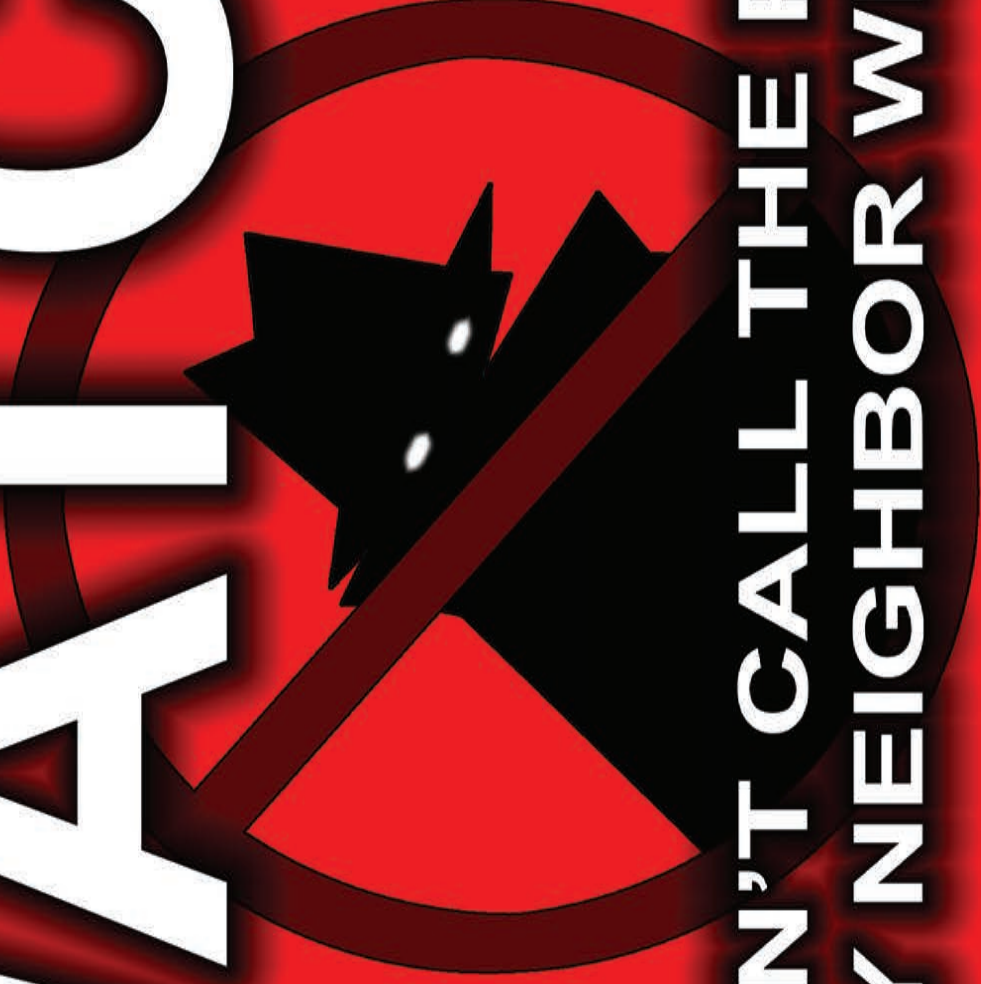
708 788-2660

PUBLIC WORKS

708 749-4700

MAYOR ROBERT J. LOVERO

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



IF I DON'T CALL THE POLICE
MY NEIGHBOR WILL